

# **Governor's Advisory Commission on Aging**

## **Minutes**

**October 27, 2004**

**I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.**

### **II. Attendance: Members Sign-In**

**Members Present: Ms. Ann Gardella, Mr. Ken Reynolds, Sr., Dr. Herb Constantine, Mr. Joseph Brown, Rev. Paul Bliss, Ms. Madeline Ernest, , Ms. Nancy Pontes, Ms. Libby Arron, Ms. Gloria Williams, Mr. Ray Tetreault, Mr. Herb Weiss, Mr. Joseph Corrente**

**Others in Attendance: Ms. Corinne Calise Russo, Director DEA, Mr. Vin Monafo (DEA), Ms. Kathy McKeon (DEA), Ms. Mary King, Ms. Rebecca Therriatult (DOH intern), Ms. Donna Slemon (DEA)**

**Absent: Ms. Maria Matias, Ms. Ester Price, Ms. Louise King, Ms. Helen Friend**

**Excused: Sr. Marietta Walsh**

### **III. Minutes:**

**Chairperson Gardella asked the members to review the minutes of the September 22, 2004 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to**

**approve the minutes.**

#### **IV. Chairperson's Report**

**Chairperson Gardella stated Joe Brown, Madeline Ernest and herself met with Mike Cronan to address the member terms and resignations.**

**After reviewing the letters of intent for member reappointments and new appointments the following recommendations where sent to the Governor's office for consideration.**

#### **Terms Expiring March 1, 2003**

**Re-appoint Mr. Herb Weiss**

**Ms. Ann Gardella**

**Ms. Libby Arron**

**Appoint Ms. Janice L. Zeichner (replacing Ms. Dewart) Bennet  
H. Plotkin, Ph.D (replacing Ms. Nagle Whitford)**

**Mr. Norm Chapman (replacing Mr. Carlo Gamba)**

**Ms. Lisa Pontarelli (replacing Ms. Greenberg)**

#### **Terms Expiring March 1, 2004**

**Re-appoint Dr. Herb Costantine**

**Reverend Paul Bliss**

**Mr. Joseph Brown**

**Ms. M. Louise King**

**Ms. Maria Matias**

**Ms. Gloria Williams**

**Sister Marietta Walsh**

**Terms Expire March 1, 2005**

**Ms. Nancy Lynne Pontes**

**Ms. Helen Friend**

**Mr. Joseph Corrente**

**Ms. Esther Price**

**Mr. Kenneth Reynolds**

**Mr. Raymond Tetreault**

**Ms. Madeline Ernest**

**Speaker's Appointments: Representative Joanne M. Giannini**

**Senate Majority Leader's Appointments:**

#### **V. Director's Report**

**Corinne Calise Russo reported DEA received the Federal Medicare Grant for \$1.9 million. The grant is designated to educate the RIPAE / Medicare recipients.**

**The White House Conference on Aging will be held on October 23 to October 26, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, DC. The Conference on Aging has not determined the budget for authorized state delegates to attend the conference. DEA will work with the Governor's office and Senator Reed's office to arrange RI Listening Sessions throughout the state to give seniors the opportunity to voice their concerns. Issues will be prioritized and presented at the White House Conference on Aging.**

**The Director announced the department has two vacant positions due**

to the October 15 transfer of Mike Cronan to the Department of Labor and Training and the termination of Barbara Muzeni to move to Florida.

Corinne Calise Russo announced the DEA did release the findings of the Elder Driver Report. She encourages members to call their local community or DOT to report problems with street lighting, and lack of signage or obstructed signage.

The Director asked Kathy McKeon and Vin Monafo to talk to the group regarding the Older Americans Act. Kathy distributed materials outlining the Older Americans Act and how it created the Administration on Aging and its mission to provide home and community based care for the elderly and their caregivers. She noted that services are not based on income eligibility. The program philosophy is to serve people who are economically and socially disadvantaged. Programs offered include nutrition, preventive health services, National Family Caregiver Support Program and services to protect elder rights.

Vin Monafo explained the funding for the two nutrition programs, Meals on Wheels and senior center meal sites. He stated that Joe Brown founded the successful RI Meals on Wheels program, which is the model program in the country. Vin explained the funds are used to support home delivery of meals and senior center meal sites in socially and economically disadvantaged areas of the state. A person

must be 60 years of age to qualify for the meal programs. Elders are asked but not required to make a small donation for the meals. The meals on wheels program serves 600,000 home bound elders and combined with meal sites servers 1.2 million meals annually. Vin mentioned that case management agencies are also funded for victims of self abuse and neglect.

## **VI. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was not given due to the absence of Ester Price.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **N. E. Coalition:**

Sister Marietta Walsh is attending the N.E. Coalition Meeting in Connecticut.

Report to follow.

### **Forum on Aging:**

Joe Brown reported that Arn Lisnoff attended the October meeting to explain and enlist member support of Referendum 12. Joe wanted to know the plan for the ADRC if the Referendum was rejected. The Director stated that the Department of Administration as well as all the network agencies are lending their support for approval.

### **Silver Haired Legislature:**

Libby Arron reported that Peter Kerwin attended the October meeting

at Highland Court to explain and enlist member support Referendum 12.

**VIII. Old Business:**

None spoken.

**IX. New Business:**

Herb Weiss announced the Senior Digest radio program is a good venue for seniors to voice their concerns. It is on WPRO AM on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2004. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna M. Slemon

Assistant to the Director

Department of Elderly Affairs